

Book Report on *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*

Middle Grade Fiction

I. Introduction

Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone, written by J.K. Rowling and published in 1997, is the first book in the famous Harry Potter series. It belongs to the fantasy genre and is written mainly for middle-grade readers, although people of all ages enjoy it. The story introduces a magical world filled with spells, mythical creatures, and exciting adventures. The book's main themes include friendship, courage, and the battle between good and evil. It is a coming-of-age story that follows a young boy discovering who he truly is and where he belongs.

II. Summary

The book begins with Harry Potter living with his aunt, uncle, and cousin, the Dursleys. They treat him very poorly, making him feel unwanted and lonely. Everything changes on his eleventh birthday when he learns that he is a wizard. A giant named Hagrid arrives to give Harry his Hogwarts acceptance letter, and Harry discovers that his parents were wizards who died protecting him from an evil wizard named Voldemort.

Harry travels to Hogwarts, where he enters a world filled with moving staircases, magical classes, and enchanted creatures. He quickly becomes friends with Ron Weasley and Hermione Granger, forming a loyal trio. Harry also discovers that he is famous for surviving Voldemort's attack as a baby.

During the school year, Harry learns about the Sorcerer's Stone, a magical object that can grant immortality. Strange things begin happening at Hogwarts, and Harry suspects that someone is trying to steal the Stone. He believes Professor Snape is the villain because of his suspicious behavior, although the truth is more complicated.

Harry and his friends work together to uncover the mystery, solving clues and facing magical challenges. In the final confrontation, Harry discovers that Professor Quirrell, not Snape, is the one helping Voldemort. Quirrell tries to use the Stone to restore Voldemort to full strength. Harry bravely stops him, and Dumbledore later explains that the Stone has been destroyed to prevent future danger.

At the end of the school year, Harry returns to the Dursleys for the summer, knowing he has a place where he truly fits in and friends who care about him.

III. Analysis and Evaluation

J.K. Rowling's writing style is clear, imaginative, and easy for young readers to follow. She uses descriptive language to make the magical world feel real—from the moving staircases at Hogwarts to the humorous details about the Dursleys. Her strongest skill is worldbuilding. Every

location in the book, such as Diagon Alley or the Great Hall, has unique details that spark curiosity.

Rowling also uses humor to balance the more serious parts of the story. Characters like Ron, Hagrid, and even the mischievous twins add light moments that make the book enjoyable. The suspense surrounding the Sorcerer's Stone is handled well, with clues placed throughout the story that encourage readers to think ahead and make predictions.

One weakness is that some characters, like the Dursleys, are exaggerated in their behavior, which can make them seem unrealistic. However, this style fits the tone of a fantasy book aimed at younger readers. Overall, Rowling's writing keeps the story engaging, emotional, and fun to read.

IV. Themes and Messages

One of the strongest themes is **friendship**. Harry, Ron, and Hermione support one another through difficult challenges. Their teamwork—Ron's bravery, Hermione's intelligence, and Harry's determination—shows that friends can accomplish more when they work together.

Another important theme is **courage**. Harry shows bravery even when he is scared, especially during his final encounter with Quirrell and Voldemort. The book teaches readers that courage often means doing what is right, even when it is dangerous or difficult.

The theme of **good versus evil** appears throughout the story. Voldemort represents selfishness and cruelty, while characters like Dumbledore stand for kindness and wisdom. Rowling suggests that choices, rather than magical ability, are what make a person good.

Finally, there is the theme of **belonging**. At the Dursleys' house, Harry feels invisible and unwanted. At Hogwarts, he finds a place where he is valued and respected. The book highlights how important it is to find a community that accepts you for who you are.

V. Character Analysis

Harry Potter is a kind, humble, and brave boy who develops confidence throughout the story. His past makes him central to the fight against Voldemort, but his true strength lies in his courage and loyalty.

Ron Weasley is friendly, brave, and supportive. Although he sometimes feels overshadowed by his siblings, he proves his worth through his loyalty and strategic thinking, especially during the magical chess challenge.

Hermione Granger is smart, organized, and hardworking. While she begins the story very focused on rules, she grows to understand the value of friendship. Her quick-thinking often saves the trio.

Professor Dumbledore serves as a wise mentor. He offers guidance that helps Harry understand the importance of choices and kindness.

Voldemort represents fear and darkness. Although he appears only briefly, his presence drives the entire plot.

VI. Personal Reflection

As a reader, I found the book exciting and magical from beginning to end. The world of Hogwarts is easy to imagine, and the characters feel real and relatable. The themes of friendship and bravery stand out the most, and they make the story meaningful as well as entertaining. The book encourages readers to believe in themselves and to stand up for what is right, even when it is difficult. Overall, it is a story that stays with you long after you finish it.

VII. Conclusion

In conclusion, *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* is a powerful and imaginative middle-grade novel filled with adventure, emotion, and important lessons. Through strong characters, a creative setting, and themes that matter to young readers, J.K. Rowling creates a memorable story that continues to inspire audiences worldwide.